

SAFE CHILD POLICY

No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. A child could be approached by a stranger, become ill, wander outside, or become lost or injured. Because of this, parents or guardians are responsible for their children's safety and well-being while their children are visiting the library. The library cannot and does not assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of children. The library staff cannot observe all patron contacts made on the premises.

1. Parents or guardians are responsible for their children in the library. The Effingham Public Library is not responsible for children left unattended.
2. The library staff will assist children with using the library, but will not act as caregivers for children.
3. Children under 10 years old must not be left alone in the library. A responsible caregiver (parent, guardian, or sibling or babysitter age 13 or older) must supervise children in the same department of the library. Parents or guardians remain responsible for their children and tweens/teens even when the parent or guardian is not present in the building.
4. If the library is closing, at a regular time or in an emergency situation, and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located in the building, the Effingham Police Department will be called to assist the child. Under no circumstances will a staff member drive any child home.
5. The library is not responsible for the care and safety of minor children traveling to and from library premises.